



The Vision

Volume 1, Issue 2

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Drill Sergeant Of The Year



DS Ulysses Rayford is presented the Samuel P. Watkins, Fort Gordon Drill Sergeant of the Year award by BG Janet A. Hicks (left) and CSM Samuel P. Watkins (rear of award). Mrs. Sylvia Brooks (far right) from Pioneer Services and Mr. Phil Oviatt (not pictured) from Creative Frames and Engraving donated the plaque. Read more about the grueling competition leading up to this presentation starting on Page 5...

Inside this issue:

<i>Brigade Commander's Corner</i>	2
<i>Command Sergeants Major Corner</i>	3
<i>Drill Sergeant of the Year Competition</i>	5
<i>The Operations Zone</i>	6
<i>The Adjutants Corner</i>	7
<i>Brigade Security</i>	8
<i>WWJD</i>	9
<i>Brigade Supply (S4)</i>	16
<i>Leadership Changes</i>	23



BG Janet Hicks, DSOY Ulysses Rayford, DS Kendric Brooks (DSOY Runner-Up), and CSM Michael Terry pose with the CSM Samuel P. Watkins, DSOY Award

Brigade Commander's Corner

Colonel Allen F. Woodhouse, Commander, 15th Signal Brigade



The first edition of "The Vision" was well done and I want to thank all who contributed to it. This second edition is more action packed because a lot has happened since then. Remember, the intent of "The Vision" is to provide another means of disseminating command information, get the word out on upcoming events, to welcome newcomers and farewell those leaving, to

recognize outstanding performance and contribute to building a cohesive Brigade Team focused on training the best signal and ordnance soldiers in the world. Therefore, please pass the word to your colleagues to visit our website and check it out because we cannot afford to print enough copies for everyone.

We have had a number of successes since last quarter. First, Exodus 2002 was reported to be the best executed Exodus in recent memory. Many thanks to all of you. It was a cooperative effort among so many in the Brigade and many agencies throughout the Ft. Gordon community. Clearly the Brigade S3 shop deserves a big Attaboy/girl for planning, organizing and coordinating all the activities that made it run so smoothly. The Battalions did a tremendous job coordinating the soldiers' travel arrangements.

The 551st and 369th had the lead on the Brigade Holiday Ball and it was really a first class event and lots of fun. The AAR comments say that we should continue to make it a civilian clothes function, but try to do it on a Friday night. Consider it done, civilian clothes it is and we have reserved the Gordon Club for Friday 12 December....Mark your calendars.

The TRADOC assessment team noted that the relationship between instructors and Drill Sergeants was much improved.

The TRADOC Initial Entry Training (IET) Assessment Team visited the post in mid January. Again the Brigade S3 did a super job coordinating with them and conducting IPRs with the Battalions and the entire Ft. Gordon community. As you would expect there were

some areas that we needed to make some improvements in.

We immediately attacked those areas and only the ones that caused a major paradigm like adjusting work hours remain to be fixed.

There were several areas that were identified as "the best in TRADOC". Our system for getting all soldiers AKO accounts, our Organization Inspection Program, and our Drill Sergeant Life Cycle Program were recognized as the model for TRADOC. The team also noted that the relationship between Instructors and Drill Sergeants was much improved, which I was very happy to hear.



CSM Peppers and the 2002 Drill Sergeant of the year (DSOY), SSG(P) Ferguson took the Drill Sergeant of the year competition to new heights.

They were successful in making it a post-wide event with a dinner and award ceremony. Our Chief

of Signal, BG Hicks and our Regimental CSM, CSM Terry, participated and attended several events in addition to the dinner and award ceremony. It was truly a great week. Congratulations to all the candidates for a superb performance and very tough competition. A special congratulations to DS Brooks the runner-up and DS Rayford, the 2003 DSOY. Also, many thanks to CSM Watkins from the White House Communications Agency for being the Guest Speaker at the DSOY Dinner. He was the first Signaleer to become the TRADOC DSOY in 1988. Well done!

CSM Watkins was the first Signaleer to become the TRADOC DSOY in 1988.

I drastically under-estimated the amount of time I have available to get out and visit you all in your work places. It has been difficult to get out on Tuesdays and Thursdays as I intended. I am working to fix that with my staff, so expect to see more of me in your work places in the 3d quarter.

The people in the Brigade remain our most important resource, and I am committed to doing all I can to be responsive to your needs. An employee of the month recognition program was suggested to me and I think that it is a great idea. We will put a team of folks together to develop some criteria and a selection process. My next Brigade forum is in late April and I hope to be able to provide specific details on the program at that time.

Finally, there are a number of changes on the horizon that will affect quite a few people. The changes have to do with

(Continued on page 4)

Command Sergeant Major's Corner

Command Sergeant Major Reuben L. Peppers, 15th Signal Brigade



This is the second article I've had the privilege to share my thoughts with you. I realize there are a lot of articles you could be reading now, so I'm truly honored that you are reading mine.

Our country is on point this very day with over 115,000 U.S. troops stationed out in the desert, ready to launch a war against

Kuwait's northern neighbor, Iraq. I believe that we are a part of the greatest nation on earth. We have the best trained and well disciplined soldiers, airmen, sailors and marines the world has ever and could ever know. We also have the most sophisticated and technical weaponry in the entire world. We are a powerful nation and I believe we can face any nation in battle and arise the victor. I also believe what scripture says, "In the beginning God created the Heavens and earth". Therefore this world was created for His purpose. We can do no more or no less than that which is in His plan.

I share all of this to proclaim that without God in our lives our plans are like an unloaded weapon; it looks threatening, sophisticated, technically sound with no power whatsoever. Our President constantly shares his personal relationship with the Father and

But before we can lift up others in our prayers we must be certain that we are on solid ground in our relationship with God

how he seeks spiritual guidance throughout the demanding decisions that comes with the position as the President of the United States of America, the greatest nation on earth. We are continuously being reminded to lift up our nation, our President, and our soldiers deployed to various part of the world in our prayers. But before we can lift up others in our prayers we must be certain that we are on solid ground in our relationship with God. I would like to share this letter with you that I received from a friend sometime ago. It's a simple but enlightening letter that I hope and pray will bring conviction, encouragement, and most of all joy to your life.

A LETTER FROM GOD

My Dearest Child,

You've been on my mind and heart. I see you struggling and planning, worrying and sweating, crying and running at a furious pace. You're trying to move that mountain by yourself again, huh?

God asks that we cast all our cares on Him because He cares. Think about what your worrying says to God when you refuse to give things over to Him. When you worry about money, you're telling Him that He is unable to provide for His children.... that although He has riches beyond belief in Heaven, He is too stingy to share them with you.

When you worry that no one understands you, you're telling Him that although He has been with you since before you were formed in the womb, and carved you in the palm of His hand, He doesn't know you.

When you worry that you will not have enough food, you're telling Him that although He rained down bread from Heaven in the desert to feed His children, you are the one He's forgotten.

When you worry that your enemies will have victory over you, you're telling God that although He has given you spiritual battle gear to defend yourself, that despite His track record of being a giant-slayer, Red Sea divider, lion's mouth closer and a furnace cooler, He can't handle your coworker, your neighbor or a former friend.

When you worry that your children have decided to follow the world instead of your example, you're telling God that He doesn't keep His promises.... That despite the fact that you have raised them up in the way they should go, they'll stray because basically, He lied.

When you worry because the doctors told you that children are impossible, that a cure is impossible, that healing is impossible, you're telling Him that this world controls your fate. You're saying that prayer time with Him is merely something to pass the time. You're saying that although He can

(Continued on page 4)

Brigade Commander's Corner

(Continued from page 2)

adjusting the time soldiers wake up in the mornings. We are considering a wake up time of 0500 vice 0400, and that may cause a change when classes start for the day shift by approximately 30 minutes. There are also some movement of classrooms and offices to improve the logistics of soldier movement and feeding by reducing the number of locations where soldiers train. It will also enhance the ability of the leadership to provide the proper oversight of soldier movement as required. In all cases my guidance is that all people who will be affected by this will be briefed on what is hap-

pening and why. I realize that change is not easy and not everyone will be satisfied regardless of what the final decision although that would please me greatly. However, as I have said many times after fully considering all the information available, I will make the decision that is best for the accomplishment of the mission with the least amount of inconvenience to the workforce as possible. At of this writing I do not have all the information I need to make that decision.

Thanks to all of you for your hard work and dedication.



Command Sergeant Major's Corner

(Continued from page 3)

raise the dead, make a virgin conceive, open the womb of a woman well past eighty, heal a 12 year issue of blood, make the blind see and the lame walk, He can't help you.

When you worry that you won't be able to do enough to earn forgiveness, you're telling Him, "That's OK Lord, no need for Your Son to die, I can earn my own forgiveness." Let's just act like Jesus never died, and tell Him never mind... that He doesn't need to go to the cross.

When you worry that no one will love you, that you'll be lonely for the rest of your life, you're telling Him that His love is insufficient...that He couldn't possibly love you enough to ward away loneliness. You're saying that although He has promised life more abundantly, He was lying. ...that despite the fact that He started off saying that it is not good that we be alone, He's changed His mind.

When you worry and refuse to give the problem over to Him, you're telling Him that although He could create the world, He can't handle what's going on in YOUR world, so you will. You are saying that He won't work things out,

that obstacles cannot be overcome, that mountains can't be climbed, that healing cannot occur, that what is lost will not be found, that joy does not come in the morning, that He is not the God of a second chance, that the promised land has been swallowed up by the desert, that you have discovered the height, depth and width of His love and found it to fall short of your needs.

Think about all that you're saying to the one who loves you the most and who has all power. Really think about it. Then open your hands and release what you've been holding onto. Bow down on your knees and ask Him to forgive you for doubting Him. Walk away with a peaceful heart and note the footsteps that go before you to make the crooked places straight, a way in the wilderness, and water springing forth in the desert.

Love,

Thank you for sharing a few moments with me. In closing, I leave you with a golden nugget: Psalm 1:1,2, *Blessed is the man.....*



Voice of the Army ... Proud to Serve

2003 FT. GORDON DRILL SERGEANT OF THE YEAR COMPETITION



It hardly seems like an entire year has passed since I was announced as the 2002 Fort Gordon Drill Sergeant of the Year (DSOY), but the torch has been passed. On Thursday March 6, 2003, DS Ulysses D. Rayford from Bravo Company, 551st Signal Battalion was crowned the 2003 Fort Gordon Drill Sergeant of the Year. This year's competition was conducted from 3-6 March, cumulating with the DSOY award ceremony on Thursday March 6th. The week started on Monday with all five candidates taking the 3-event Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), which pushed them to their limits and tested their physical stamina. Immediately after taking the APFT, all five candidates were required to take a 50-question general knowledge examination, which covered numerous subject areas related to training Initial Entry Training soldiers. The day ended with the candidates being evaluated on 4 randomly selected Drill and Ceremony presentations, as well as 1 Common Task. On Tuesday, the candidates appeared before a board comprised of Command Sergeant Majors (CSM) and Sergeant Majors (SGM), who quizzed and questioned the nominees on a multitude of subject areas. This ended the formal competitive part of the 2003 DSOY Competition, but not the rest of the week's festivities.

We kicked off Wednesday morning with the 1st DSOY run, which was led by the United Army Signal Center and Regimental CSM, CSM Michael A. Terry. Also, that day there was a group photo taken of all the current Drill Sergeants stationed on Fort Gordon, along with Brigadier General Janet A. Hicks and CSM Terry. Later that night the 15th Regimental Signal Brigade hosted the 1st Annual Drill Sergeant of the Year Recognition Dinner at the Gordon Club. The guest speaker for the dinner was CSM Samuel P. Watkins, who is the CSM for White House Communications,

but more importantly the first Signal soldier to ever win the Training and Doctrine Command's (TRADOC) DSOY competition in 1988. The dinner was an overwhelming success and could not have taken place without the hard work of DS Anthony Ray of Bravo Company, 447th Signal Battalion. The week ended with the DSOY Award ceremony, which as held for the first time in Alexander Hall, where BG Hicks made the much-anticipated announcement naming DS Rayford the 2003 DSOY winner. Also, at the Award Ceremony, BG Hicks officially named the Fort Gordon DSOY award the "Samuel P. Watkins Award" in honor of CSM Watkins significant achievement in being the first Signal soldier to be named the TRADOC DSOY.

I would like to personally thank all of the people who worked behind the scenes making this year's competition a success, as well as congratulate DS Rayford and wish him a successful year as the Fort Gordon DSOY.

Ordnance Drill Sergeant of the Year

Drill Sergeant (SSG) Nathan Espey of B Company, 73d Ordnance Battalion recently won top honors at the Drill Sergeant of the Year board for the 59th Ordnance Brigade conducted at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama. Two of the 73d's finest were sent to Redstone to compete. About 50 drill sergeants fall under the 59th, stationed at Redstone, Fort Gordon, and Fort Sill. DS Espey was a prior Drill Sergeant of the Quarter for the 73rd and was proud to represent Bravo company at Redstone. He took part in a formal board, APFT, written tests, and demonstrated several Drill & Ceremony modules. DS Espey met the challenge at hand at was awarded the Drill Sergeant of the Year. He received an AAM upon his return to Fort Gordon from COL Hafele, 59th Ordnance Brigade Commander. In addition he was awarded savings bonds, memberships in professional organizations, and several coins. DS Espey's dedication to excellence has never been more apparent and his peers were not surprised when he won the award.



DSOY candidates before taking the APFT



DS Espey

The Operations Zone — Brigade S3

Major Thomas R. Cooper, Brigade S3

We would like to highlight the IET Assessment Visit that occurred from 13-16 Jan 03. This is an event used to gauge the quality of training/life for Initial Entry Training (IET) soldiers and is used to assist Fort Gordon and the 15th Regimental Signal Brigade in identifying issues and problem areas. The TRADOC team, led by LTG Dennis Cavin, Deputy Commanding General for IET and Commander, U.S. Army Accessions Command, spent three days facilitating focus group discussions, interviewing key personnel and visiting training/unit facilities. Areas assessed were general Soldier Issues, Drill Sergeant & Instructor Programs, Administration, Logistics, Engineering (DPW), Medical, Operations & Training, Legal, and Chaplain Support. In addition to the improvements in programs and morale, the Assessment Team recognized several individuals across Fort Gordon as "heroes". These heroes included personnel from the 15th RSB, Garrison, and the Medical community. PFC Cambra, an IET soldier and Platoon Guide in B Company, 369th Sig Bn, received a coin of excellence from LTG Cavin for outstanding leadership and initiative in supervising his peers. Drill Sergeant (DS) Stewart (E Company, 447th Sig Bn), DS Drew (B Company, 73rd Ord Bn), DS Liner (C Company, 551st Sig Bn), and DS Clark (B Company, 447th Sig Bn) were recognized for their

outstanding leadership and contribution to soldier development. There is always room for improvement, and this year's visit identified several areas that the Installation and the Brigade will focus on during the coming weeks: standardizing the implementation of TRADOC Regulation 350-6 (governing manual for IET) across the 15th RSB, Table of Distribution and Allowances (TDA), Dining Facility & Barracks maintenance, and no-shows for medical appointments.

On a more personal note, the S-3 shop would like to bid farewell to CPT Conner, SFC Daniel, SFC Goolsby, SFC Gray, SFC Stanley, SFC Williams and Ms. Lois Vann. CPT Conner (also known as "Mr. EXODUS") moved on to the Signal Captains Career Course here at Fort Gordon. SFC Goolsby is PCSing to a new duty station as is SFC Daniel after he returns from the First Sergeants Course in Fort Bliss, Texas. SFC Stanley is moving from the S3 shop (automation) over to Training Development. Ms. Vann is moving from the Brigade S3 shop to assume the position of Battalion S3 in the 447th Signal Battalion. This move also involves a promotion to the rank of GS-13. Both SFC Gray and SFC Williams are retiring. We thank all of these great Americans for their service.

In the Brigade S-3 shop, we handle many things. One of the most important is the Brigade Calendar. In an effort to get "the word out", the following are upcoming events:

- 21 Mar – HHC, Bde Prayer Breakfast (73rd Bn Classroom)
- 21 Mar – 73rd Ordnance Ball
- 23 Mar – Great American Yard Sale (Post Housing Areas)
- 26 Mar – Special Olympics (looking for volunteers)
- 27 Mar – Post Retirement Ceremony
- 28 Mar – Audie Murphy Induction Ceremony (Alexander Hall)
- 31 Mar – 30 April – Spring Clean-up
- 25 Apr – Spring Clean-up in Post Housing Areas
- 7 – 13 Apr – Masters Weeks (Ticket Lottery for Military)
- 20 Apr – Easter Sunrise Service (Freedom Park)
- 24 Apr – Installation Quarterly Awards Ceremony (Conrad Hall)
- 24 – 25 Apr – Recruiting Tech Expo (High School students visit Fort Gordon)
- 25 Apr – Spring Clean-up for Housing Areas
- 26 Apr – M16 Range (working on the weekend!!!)
- 27 Apr – 3 May – National Volunteer Week (thanks to all you volunteers!!!)
- 29 Apr – Days of Remembrance (Holocaust)
- 1 May – Asian Pacific Heritage Month Command Program
- 2 May – Post Organization Day "Spring Fever"
- 3 May – Post Flea Market
- 9 May – Military Spouse Day

April 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

The Adjutant's Corner — The "AG Train" - Is Direct to You

Captain Russ A. Hernandez, Brigade SI / Adjutant

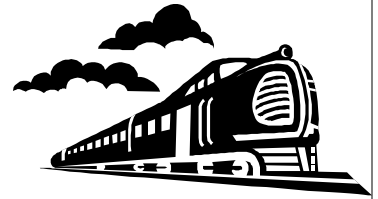
The world of the internet and personal computers has revolutionized just about every industry – to include the Human Resource world. Yep, we still work with paper but mainly for the actual transactions and not necessarily for information flow. The two most resourceful sites that a soldier and their family can use is the PERSCOM homepage (www.perscom.army.mil), which allows one to access just about everything imaginable concerning your career to include portals to ASK (Enlisted Assignment Information), the Officer Assignment Preference page, and your AKO personal site. The other is the DFAS homepage (www.dfas.mil), which covers all of your money matters. One area of critical importance is the relatively new "MyPay" site – the new portal that allows you to download your own LES in addition to your W-2 if you don't have it by now.

Stop Loss? Yes, no, maybe!!! The answer is quite simple for us in the 15th RSB. We are only affected by it in one way. If you have orders sending you to a pre - identified Stop-Loss unit (the 15th RSB is not on this list)

then your orders will be deleted and you will possibly remain here. This only concerns permanent party.

Finally, the BDE SI shop would like to say good-bye to SPC Howard. She has done an outstanding job – primarily as our Awards Clerk (among other duties) – and is on her way to Korea (CP Humphries). We wish her well on her new adventure. She will be missed!!

So what's the bottom line? It is that you should jump on the AG train and not hesitate to get the answers you want or need.



The world of the internet and personal computers has revolutionized just about every industry



COL Woodhouse presents one of many awards during the BDE Awards Ceremony

Men Making a Difference

Colonel Allen F. Woodhouse, Commander, 15th Signal Brigade

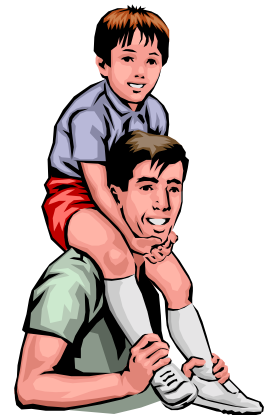
In January of this year I had the privilege to attend a Banquet sponsored by an organization in the CSRA called "Men Making a Difference". It is a non-profit organization whose purpose is:

1. To improve the quality of life spiritually, mentally and physically of youth in the CSRA.
2. To provide guidance through mentoring, tutoring and positive role modeling.
3. To engage in any lawful activity related to the aforementioned for charitable, scientific and educational purposes.

I was very impressed with their commitment to the youth in our community and their

professionalism. Most impressive is that they have an Attorney and support of the Richmond County Juvenile Court Judge and both were at the Banquet. I was happy to see some senior NCOs from the Brigade and Installation there.

Because of limited resources the organization focus its efforts primarily on the Regional Youth Development Center on post and Terrance Manor Elementary School. It is trying to grow and desire to reach out to all needy individuals in the area. They are looking for volunteers. If you have the desire and time contact Mr. Willie Battle at (706) 592-2280 or wjb2370@GTE.NET. The organization is looking for more men to help make a difference.



Brigade S2 — Personnel Security Office

Captain Jonathan D. Stamberg, Brigade S2



We “go to court” and “plead their case” before the man who judges clearances here at Fort Gordon.

Greetings from your super duper security clearance defense lawyers!

That’s a lot of what we do here in the Brigade Personnel Security Office. We work with the soldiers and their leaders to help them prepare the case for their clearance. Then we “go to court” and “plead their case” before the man who judges clearances here at Fort Gordon.

Money issues got you down?

You’re not the only one. Financial issues are the biggest clearance killer and the most difficult one to resolve even if someone does get a clearance. We’re not financial experts, but here’s some of the advice that we give soldiers who want to prevent financial issues from hurting their clearance.

Find out what you owe. There are many options for how to get a credit report. You can not be charged more than \$9 by law, but people can charge you for the service. Some states give you a free one every year if you’re a resident. Georgia’s the only state that gives residents 2 free reports a year! You can try www.experian.com, www.transunion.com, or www.equifax.com to get it online or get phone numbers to call and get it by mail.

Establish a repayment plan. This requires having a budget. You can’t know how much you have to allot to repay your debts until you sit down and get an idea of your income & expenses. Once you determine a reasonable amount to allot to debt repayment then

you can contact creditors to work out a repayment plan. Some may be hostile. Some may be willing to settle with you for less than the original amount. Be ready to work with them.

Stick to the repayment plan. This is where sticking to the budget helps. We find that some soldiers who start strong don’t always finish that way. That only hurts your case and your clearance (if you’re trying for one). One way to hold yourself accountable is to set up an allotment through your bank or from your military pay.

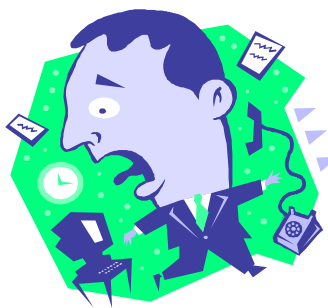
If you want more details try giving Army Community Service a call at 791-3579. Their “Basic Financial Management Class” is on Wednesdays from 0830 to 1100 in Darling Hall room 367. It is not necessary to reserve a seat in the class.

Thought for the day: “We face a dilemma that armies have always faced within a democratic society. The values necessary to defend that society are often at odds with the values of the society itself. ... We must not apologize for those differences. The American people are served by soldiers disciplined to obey the orders of their leaders, and hardened and conditioned to survive the rigors of the battlefield. We do neither our soldiers nor the American people any favors if we ignore those realities.”

General Walter T. Kerwin

(“Soldier, 1978” taken from *Don’t Just Fill in the Blanks* by Timothy P. Dunnigan, © 1996 by Timothy P. Dunnigan, p.41)

Notice on Behavioral Health Services Appointments



Permanent Party cadre members can now call the Outpatient Behavioral Health Services (OBHS) clinic (previously known as Community Mental Health Services) to schedule a same or next day appointment. Please identify yourself as a cadre member in the 15th SIG BDE and the receptionist will make the appointment. When you arrive, you will be taken directly to that provider’s office or to another permanent party area to wait. Due to our unique training environment, OBHS recognizes the need to separate cadre and IET soldiers.

Additionally, family members do not need to come to Outpatient Behavioral Health Services (OBHS) for treatment. They may call CHOICE Behavioral Health Partners (1-800-700-8646) to arrange for an appointment in the community. There is no charge to Active Duty family members as long as the diagnosis and treatment is a TRICARE covered benefit. We advise families to contact their Health Benefits Advisor if there are any questions about benefits.

WWJD?

Chaplain (MAJ) Michael Riddle, Brigade Chaplain



A couple of years ago WWJD cloth bracelets were in vogue. They came in a sundry of colors. They were appearing everywhere.

They were real popular with young people. I know my two teenagers wore them as most every youth at our church. Even some celebrities and sports figures wore them. Before his untimely death the professional golfer, Payne Stewart, wore his WWJD bracelet, even during professional golf tournaments. A reporter once asked him at the U.S. Open what the letters meant and why he wore it. Stewart told him that it was a public witness to his faith and a reminder to do what's right. You do know what WWJD is an acronym for? Don't you? It means, "What would Jesus do?"

Let me tell you a little story with that question in mind. Once a man fell into a hole in the middle of town. Try as he could, he simply could not get out.

A coach came by and was later heard telling his team, "Let's win one for the man in the hole."

A teacher came by and told the man

five ways people fall into holes and seven ways one can avoid doing so.

A school principal came by and asked the man what he was doing so close to the hole that had led to his falling in?

A preacher came by and preached quite a good sermon on how sin causes us to fall into holes.

A Sunday school teacher came by and asked the man if he could attend church as soon as he got out of the hole?

A counselor came by and asked him exactly how he fell in and how others had fallen into holes?

A lawyer came by and asked the man whose hole it was and explained to him his legal options.

A doctor came by and lowered a prescription and a bill into the hole.

A nurse came by and provided medicine and bandages.

A city councilman came by and apologized, and told the man that he had voted not to put the hole where it was and that he would try and get money to fix the hole.

A policeman came by and suggested putting up a sign to warn people of the hole.

A committee chairman came by and took notes. Soon there were shrubs and flowers placed around the hole.

A volunteer at the local mission came by and lowered clothes and food down into the hole.

A soldier came by and asked the man if he would share his foxhole.

One day Jesus came by, reached down His hand, and pulled the man out of the hole.

I wonder, "Who really helped this man who had fallen into the hole?"

We talk a lot in the Army about values and doing the right thing. What is the right thing? St. Paul, the Apostle, I believe answers that for us. In his Epistle to the Philippians, chapter 2 and verses 4-5, he

says, **"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus."**

There are a lot of people who have fallen on hard times—personally, professionally, financially, spiritually—and into a hole, as it were. Some of them are people we know personally. What would you have done for the man who had fallen in a hole? I hope that we would have done what Jesus did—given him a hand and pulled him out! That's what he really needed!

WWJD?

Hope, Love, and American Pride

Lieutenant Colonel Maria Bezubic, Deputy Brigade Commander

Men and women of the 15th Regimental Signal Brigade are deploying in support of military operations worldwide. To honor these dedicated soldiers and civilians, members of the HQ's have decorated a "Yellow-Ribbon" tree, which is located outside of the Brigade HQs. Eight decorated wooden hearts with yellow ribbons base of the tree, which bears a patriotic banner and more yellow ribbons.



Mrs. Linda Appletoft — Civilian Spotlight

551st Signal Battalion

We would like to congratulate Mrs. Linda J. Appletoft, for being selected as the Fort Gordon Department of the Army Civilian (DAC) of the Quarter. You may recall that last month's brigade newsletter highlighted Mrs. Appletoft on her upcoming retirement; her selection as DAC of the Quarter further solidifies the high standards that she has set and maintained during her 21 years of service.

Mrs. Appletoft's is the consummate professional and quintessential team player. She is always willing

to put the Army, the mission, and soldiers ahead of her own interests. Mrs. Appletoft's selflessness, generosity and undaunted devotion to duty have earned her the respect and admiration of all those with whom she comes in contact with. Her cheerful and charming disposition, coupled with her unique ability to stay energetic is truly an inspiration to all of us. We are truly honored to recognize someone of her caliber. Once again, congratulations Linda!

Outlaws — Lead the way!

Alpha Company, 551st Signal Battalion



A new motto and mascot are the order of the day for HQ & A Company of the 551st Signal Battalion. Lacking a distinct company motto and mascot, a call went out for suggestions. After sifting through many recommendations, a decision was made to make the new motto and mascot "OUTLAWS, Lead the Way!"

The story does not end there however. It was difficult to find a fitting "OUTLAW" mascot but a rough draft was available. It was then the full benefit of having the MOS 25M (Multimedia Illustrator) in the company was realized. SGT's McDonald

and Nesmith, of the Signal Towers Directorate of Training (DOT) office, stepped up, used their graphic artistry skills and came up with the current mascot. Members of the unit have warmly received the new mascot and you can expect to see "OUTLAWS" around Fort Gordon a lot in the very near future.

A special thanks goes out to SGT McDonald, SGT Nesmith, and all the soldiers in the company who came up with many great ideas.

Blood Drive Champions

Alpha Company, 551st Signal Battalion



The HQ & A Company Outlaws truly led the way by donating the most units of blood of any other unit on Ft. Gordon for the month of January, National Blood Donors Month. The Outlaws "squeezed" 57 volunteers to donate a pint of blood during their drive held January 16th in the basement of Signal Towers. It doesn't hurt to have a company roster with the Commanding General and all Signal Towers soldiers. An added incentive was given when the Battalion Commander, LTC Donovan, authorized the rest of the day off for soldiers who donated. This, coupled with a four-day weekend, pushed some who were hesitant over the threshold.

New restrictions on who is eligible to donate eliminated over 70% of the unit. That didn't detour SPC Ryan Matson of the Public Affairs Office (PAO). SPC Matson contacted Ms. Erin Hamblin from the Kendrick Memorial Blood Center and worked out all the details that made the event a huge success. While the company cannot compete with the AIT companies on a regular basis, it is rewarding to know that during this important month, Outlaws led the way!

Anyone interested in becoming a regular donor or learning what the current restrictions on donating blood are should contact Ms. Hamblin at 791-1014.

Real Life Test for Two IET Soldiers

73rd Ordnance Battalion

PVT Santo, Carmen and SPC Wills, Whitney from Charlie Company, 73d Ordnance Battalion finally got to use their Common Soldier Skills on 3 February 03 assisting a soldier in need.

While SPC Wills and PVT Santo were at the dry cleaners next to the 15th Regimental Signal Brigade Headquarters a fellow soldier passed out and hit her head on the floor rendering her unconscious. PVT Santo was the first to evaluate the casualty among the crowd with the aide of SPC Wills. PVT Santo realized that the soldier was unresponsive so he immediately checked to see if she was breathing. The soldier was breathing, so PVT Santo and SPC Wills reassured the soldier that everything was fine in order to keep her calm. The soldier regained consciousness and that

is when PVT Santo realized that the soldier displayed signs of shock. PVT Santo started treating the soldier for shock when she began to vomit and that is when PVT Santo turned her head to ensure she would not choke. PVT Santo continued assisting the soldier until a Drill Sergeant arrived who took over the rescue efforts awaiting for the paramedics to arrive.



Ms. Nancy Merryman — Civilian Spotlight

Headquarters and Alpha Company, 447th Signal Battalion

Ms. Nancy Merryman is an outstanding civilian who has honored this country with over 29 ½ years of service (so far). She is currently working in the 447th Signal Battalion as the Secretary, Office Automation in the Battalion S3 (Operations) Section. She considers herself to be a “jack of all trades, master of none.” But we all know better. Nancy is best known for her sense of humor in the battalion headquarters. No matter what the mood when we enter the office in the morning, Nancy has a way of making everything better. Within minutes we’re all smiling and laughing as we make our way through the day. Nancy’s official duties include all civilian personnel actions within the battalion (including those for the civilians working in the Satellite Communications and Switching, Transmission, Microwave Systems Divisions). She works as the Agency Program Coordinator for the Government Travel Card Program and, much to her chagrin she works all Temporary Duty (TDY) requests for both soldiers and civilians alike.

Ms. Merryman has been a member of the Training Divi-

sions here at Fort Gordon since 1982. Prior to that she worked in the 15th Signal Brigade as a member of the Brigade S3 (Operations) Office.

Ms. Merryman has been a member of the 447th for the past year (during the MAJOR transformation that occurred from September to November 2001). She has done outstanding work for the battalion and will continue to do great things far into the future.

Ms. Merryman’s interests include reading and cross stitching, in addition to volunteering with the Girl Scouts.



Basketball Champions!

Delta Company, 447th Signal Battalion

D/447 is proud to announce that we are the Post Morning League Basketball CHAMPIONS! PVT Christopher McKelvey, the MVP, is submitting an application to attend tryouts

for the All-Army Basketball Team. His experience playing semi-pro basketball overseas prior to enlisting in the Army should serve him well. Good Luck!



Centurion Battalion Update

Lieutenant Colonel Christopher L. Robertson, Commander, 447th Signal Battalion



It's been another great quarter for the Centurion Battalion. We have finally received the long sought after equipment from the Pentagon Renovation project and will now be able to make great strides in improving the quality of training to our soldiers in the 31P and 31S MOS. This equipment is also being maximized and will make improvements to the infrastructure at the 74B course, the DOIM and the Hospital. This is just fantastic news for all the Corps!

We want to welcome Ms. Lois Vann who has accepted the job as Battalion S-3 (Operations Officer). Lois comes to us from the Brigade S-3 shop and is extremely well qualified. It has been a

long process in selecting a S-3 and we had numerous very highly qualified applicants. I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all of those who applied but were not selected. It was a very tight competition.

I have been out talking to Commanders and CSMs of various tactical units and have heard only good things about the quality of the soldiers that we are providing to them. This is a great tribute to all of those involved in the soldierization process. From the Drill Sergeants, to the Instructors, Cooks, clerks, Officers, everyone, you should all be proud of what you do, Americas Army is!

Ms. Charlene Howell—Civilian Spotlight

Headquarters and Alpha Company, 447th Signal Battalion

Ms. Charlene Howell is the SIDPERS clerk for the 447th Signal Battalion. She has mastered the inordinate amount of administrative detail necessary to develop and implement a system that improved SIDPERS 3 processing. Her knowledge of SIDPERS procedures is unmatched by anyone in the 15th Signal Brigade.

During the past 12 months, Ms. Howell has accounted for over 15,000 soldiers without losing any from the system. She has submitted over 30,000

transactions, including Duty Status Changes, Hospital, TDY, Arrivals, Departures, AWOLS, Intra Unit Transfers, Dropped from Rolls, Grade Changes, Flags, REUP Codes, Revocation of Arrivals and Departures, Grade Reductions, and anything else that effects the soldiers' duty status and their careers.

Ms. Howell is an absolutely outstanding individual who pours herself into her work. She is a great mentor and teacher for all who cross her path.

EXODUS 2003 Holding Company

Delta Company, 551st Signal Battalion

Delta Company, 551st Signal Battalion acted as the 15th Regimental Signal Brigade's Holding Company during EXODUS '03. Almost 100 soldiers from the various IET battalions remained during the EXODUS timeframe. These soldiers participated in numerous company sponsored day trips.

The Company Commander, CPT Joseph Somers, credited the overall success to the hard work of his Senior Drill Sergeant, Executive Officer and the numerous Drill Sergeants provided from sister battalions. CPT Somers commented, "The cadre not only planned and coordinated the holding company piece, but they all focused on keeping the soldiers motivated the entire time, this resulted in no disciplinary problems, they did an all-around super job!"

While the soldiers did get to see the Augusta Lynx, Atlanta Hawks and the Peach Bowl, it wasn't all fun and games; soldiers also participated in PT and

Common Skills Training.

The installation Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) and Non-Appropriated Fund (NAF) contracting offices provided the unit with extensive support. They purchased and provided funds for sports events, movies and other MWR events. The company also received outstanding support from the local chapter of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) and the Signal Corps Regimental Association (SCRA).

Chaplain Michael Zell, 551st Signal Battalion Chaplain also took the time to sponsor a Holiday Pancake Breakfast. In order to get families fully involved, the Chaplain's office held a family day at Chucky Cheese and a Holiday Party in the unit day-room. Chaplain Zell not only provided food, but spiritual support to soldiers and their families.

SSG Eugene Blair — Soldier Spotlight

Delta Company, 447th Signal Battalion

SSG Eugene Blaire is assigned as an Operations Sergeant with D Company, 447th Signal Battalion. He has served over 17 years in the greatest institution of military prowess in existence. He enlisted in 1985 and completed advance individual training at Fort Gordon. He was subsequently stationed in Fort Stewart until 1987. Following this assignment, SSG Blair went to Bremerhaven, Germany and eventually ETS'd from the military.

SSG Blair attended Kentucky Military Academy, Graduated with Honors and was commissioned a reserve officer in the Armor Corps. He attended Armor Officer Basic during Desert Storm and volunteered to take a platoon to Iraq. The war didn't last long enough for him to go, but he did get the opportunity to run the defense lane at "10 north" for the 12th Cavalry as OPFOR. From there, SSG Blair went to Boise, Idaho to help establish the new reserve NTC site. He made the decision to finish college and transferred to the Inactive Ready Reserve in 1992. He studied broadcast technology and eventually started working for a gospel station in Northern Kentucky called WIOK while also doing production for a rock station WEBN in Cincinnati.

SSG Blair really wanted to work in television so he took a job with Warner Brothers in Cincinnati doing news, weather and working master control.

SSG Blair finally saw the light and decided it was at that time to re-associate himself with the active army. Unfortunately, since SSG Blair still held a commission as an officer, he could not reenlist into the Army. He did, however, find a reserve unit that was in need of officers and was hired as their Executive Officer.

Fortunately for him, SSG Blair's commander was soon reassigned and he found himself as the commander of his new unit. The brigade commander

wanted CPT Blair to help stand up the 558th Signal Detachment. He wasn't a signal officer, he was still an Armor officer, so the soldiers held a great deal of apprehension for this new commander of theirs. Commanding was very rewarding for SSG Blair, while also being very demanding. He gained a new respect for the reservists who are forced to cram 30 days of work into 2 every month.

SSG Blair soon took a job as a construction worker in Jackson Tennessee. He left the 558th and interviewed with a unit in Milan, Tennessee. However, he didn't work construction long, and got a job as the chief Photographer/Videographer for ABC news in Jackson, Tennessee, at station WBBJ. WBBJ was an affiliate of CNN and a lot of the stories shot were on both networks. He soon felt a calling to go back into military service and eventually called the recruiting station in Jackson to inquire about active military service again. They agreed, as long as SSG Blair would talk to soldiers about military service.

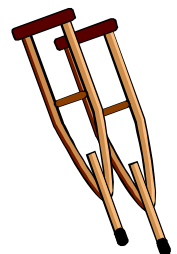
He continued making call after call trying to reenter service as an officer. But sometimes God has other plans. He felt the need to work towards the ministry so he resigned his commission to reenter the active component and work toward the chaplainry. He reported to Fort Bliss, Texas in 1998 and was with a fantastic unit in the 108th Airborne Brigade, Air Defense Artillery. From Fort Bliss he was assigned to Korea and then to Fort Gordon, Georgia. SSG Blair stated not long ago, "If I had a dollar for every time someone asked me which job I liked best, I'd be independently wealthy. In truth, it's like comparing apples to oranges. Officers have different but equally important missions from enlisted. I enjoyed both. But life is not always about how much money you make or even how much power you have. It's about how happy you are doing whatever your doing. Life is too short not to be happy and I'm happiest as a soldier."

VA Hospital Supprt

Delta Company, 447th Signal Battalion

D/447 over the last few months has been providing assistance to the VA Hospital and our veterans by taking soldiers from the unit to enjoy games and

conversation with those who proudly served. It has been a wonderful way to give back to those who have given so much to their country.



SPC James R. Krenk — Soldier Spotlight

Headquarters and Alpha Company, 447th Signal Battalion

SPC James R. Krenk enlisted into the U.S. Army as a 31F Systems Switch Operator. He is originally from Lincoln, NE

Before joining the Army, SPC Krenk was involved in several groups and organizations. He was involved in DeMolay (a young men's fraternity), played soccer since I was five and throughout college. He was also involved with Boy Scouts and he received Eagle Scout rank before finishing. In High School he was involved in various clubs such as DECA, Impact Club (drug and alcohol free group), Yearbook Staff, vocal music groups, teacher assistant programs, and peer helper programs. As a three-year varsity soccer team member, he served as captain for one year and played in the Shrine All-Star Soccer Classic.

He graduated from high school in May 1997, and proceeded to Concordia University where he studied art, English, and speech and drama. He majored in education, and received his teaching certificate in January 2002. He played soccer at Concordia, and was a four-year starting goalkeeper and two-year

team captain. He was also ranked 19th in the nation for NAIA goalkeepers. In December 2001, SPC Krenk received his Bachelor's of Science Degree in Education.

SPC Krenk signed up for the Army's Delayed Entry Program after graduating college so that he could walk with his graduating class in May 2002. Between December 2001 and May 2002, SPC Krenk was a substitute teacher with Lincoln Public Schools, in Lincoln, NE.

SPC Krenk entered basic training on July 26th, 2002 and attended basic combat training at Ft. Benning, GA. He served as Platoon Guide for his platoon. He was the cycle Honor Graduate of his company upon graduation from BCT. Since then he's become more physically fit, more mature in the ways of leading, and all around a better individual. The experiences he's had already have been great, and he has high expectations of what is to come for the future. HOOAH!

Doing Our Part

Bravo Company, 447th Signal Battalion

There are many myths about TRADOC units not being a part of the Operational Army. One such myth surrounding TRADOC is besides producing MOS qualified soldiers we play no other intricate part in deployments and other critical matters of the military.

Well, that's not the case. Recently, Bravo Company 447th Signal Battalion was awarded the Honorary Top Blood Donor Unit of the Month Award presented to their commander and first sergeant, 1LT Tania Iwaskiw and 1SG Randy Heard on Friday

March 14, 2003. A representative of the blood donor center presented the award to them. Bravo was responsible for sending over 120 blood donors to be screened for donations and a considerable amount of them were able to donate blood, platelets, or both.

Blood received by the blood donor center is used to support the existing war efforts across the globe and dismisses the myth that TRADOC isn't doing its part. Great Job Bravo!!!

Super Bowl Party — Dawg Pound Style

Delta Company, 551st Signal Battalion



vs



Delta Company, 551st Signal Battalion utilized their dayroom to host its first official Super Bowl Party on January 26, 2003. The festivities kicked off around 1400 hrs and did not end until 2200 hrs. The dayroom quickly filled up with opposing fans from both teams (Oakland fans on one side and Tampa Bay fans on the other). In a matter of minutes, over 60 soldiers filled the dayroom to enjoy pizza, chips, and soda. By the first half, the Super Bowl became a nightmare for Oakland Raider fans.

The game was watched on a surround sound big T.V. screen, guaranteeing that no soldier missed the Tampa Bay defense returning three of a record five interceptions for touchdowns; this sealed any hope the Raiders had of a late comeback. While some soldiers watched the game intensively, others enjoyed a quick game of pool or playing the X Box. Either way, the soldiers enjoyed the game. Special thanks to the cadre of Delta Company for making this party a great success.

15th Signal Brigade Holiday Ball

369th Signal Battalion

This past December the Brigade held a highly successful Holiday Ball. The 369 Warriors were responsible for the decorations, gifts and mementos. With LT Martrell Gamble, formerly of the Dawg Pound, at the helm everything was marvelous. LT Gamble, MRS Nadine Williams, MRS

Kate Pokemire and MRS Pat Dorsey were all recognized by the Brigade Commander for the outstanding efforts. Pictured below-left are Lt Gamble, Kate Pokemire and Pat Dorsey. Also below-right is the finished product of a lot of hard work.



Holiday Ball Coordinators



Holiday Ball Table Decorations

Delta Company, 551st Signal Battalion

A howling good time was had by all during the 15th RSB Holiday Ball, 12 December 2003, at the Gordon Club. Skits and jokes punctuated the evening. The Officers and NCOs of the 551st used the event as an opportunity to bond with friends and family. Battalion representatives received applause and laughter for their efforts in providing a skit loosely based on "A Christmas Carol". Family bonding was

especially noted for SFC McDonald (B Co.) and SSG McDonald (D Co.); the two brothers created a stunning profile the whole night through, coolly stating, "That's just how we always used to do it". In the end, all had great fun and the unit eagerly awaits the next opportunity to get together.



Get Well, Mr. Peters!

Headquarters and Alpha Company, 447th Signal Battalion

Mr. Wayne Peters, STMS Division Chief, was recently admitted to the hospital in the local area with what was believed to be heart problems. Mr. Peters was transferred to University Hospital where they performed surgery to re-

duce a blockage. Wayne is doing fine and, after he takes a few days to rest and recuperate, will be back to work soon. Thank you for your concern and prayers.

92Y's Taking Care of Business

CPT John Chase, Brigade S4

It has been only 3 months since Exodus and the S4 shop has been keeping up with the changes in the Brigade. For those of you ambitious or unfortunate enough to be awake at 0300 you will have notice that the DFAC is now serving a snack of various items to the Mid shift soldiers. Ron Lyn food services implemented this menu change to, among other reasons, accommodate the wishes of the soldiers, some of who had expressed a desire for something other than pre-packaged sandwiches.

There have also been some personnel changes in the S4 shop. SGT Demetrius King has returned to the BDE S4 after a few months in the 447 while their S4 shop was short handed. SPC Hills was recently transferred to the 551st to fill a shortage in that Battalion's S4. SPC Michael Hills had been the chief armorer in the brigade. That position has now been filled by SPC Jenkins.

Congratulations to SPC Dalila A'Giza who recently made Soldier of the Month. When asked about the Soldier of the

Month board SPC A'Giza said, "It was a great experience, now I know what to expect for the E-5 board."

The S4 NCOIC, MSG Douglas Archie, was TDY the first week in February to the TRADOC Logistics workshop in Williamsburg, VA. Commenting on the workshop MSG

Archie said, "It was informative and discussed the latest trends in the logistics arena. For someone without a logistics background who had to work in supply it would be very helpful"



SPC Dalila A'Giza

SFC Daniel Gray — Brigade Automation Retiree

Annice Meeler, Brigade Automation

Brigade Automation recognizes SFC Daniel C. Gray for his contributions while serving as the Senior Network and Systems Administrator for Brigade Automation, S3, 15th RSB from August 2001 through the present.

SFC Gray's vision and tireless efforts led to the upgrade of both network and systems hardware and software to better support users throughout 15th. He continuously researched, planned and implemented solutions that improved systems and network performance. He was instrumental in the planning and migration of one domain comprised of 1100 users into a resource domain.

He is well recognized for his technical competence and ability and any challenge laid before him resulted in his total immersion into research and testing until the most effective solution to a problem was found. He also effectively mentored and cross-trained several junior NCOs and civilians and was con-

sidered a reliable source for his expertise.

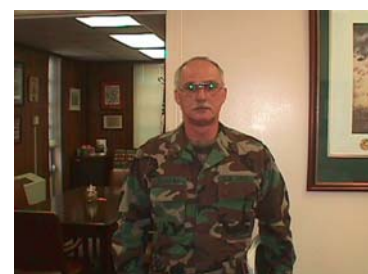
SFC Gray's humor and sense of camaraderie rallied the shop and helped to diffuse a stressful environment on many occasions. His pending retirement will be a great loss to Automation, but we wish him well as he begins his transition to a civilian career. We will miss you "Fred!"



Mr. (SFC) Tom Thigpen — Always a Soldier

Major Thomas Cooper, Brigade S3

BDE S3 shop recognizes Mr. Tom Thigpen. Mr. Thigpen, who serves as budget/TDA analyst for the BDE S3 shop, is also a SFC in the South Carolina Army National Guard. His unit, the 151st Signal Battalion, is deploying to the Southwest Asia theater of operations in support of the War on Terrorism. We wish him well and await his safe return.



SSG William Stevenson — Soldier Spotlight

Headquarters and Alpha Company, 551st Signal Battalion

The soldier spotlight this quarter is SSG William (Bill) Stevenson is the HQ & A Company, 551st Signal Battalion. Most do not know that SSG Stevenson played professional baseball from 1985 – 1989.

After graduating High School in 1981 from Santa Maria, CA, SSG Stevenson played two years of Jr. College ball for Allen Hancock College in Santa Maria. Not wanting to quit the game, he walked on and made the Lewis Clark State college team in Lewiston Idaho. His skills helped the team win two consecutive NAIA national championships in 1984 & 1985. His abilities gained the attention of pro scouts, which allowed him to be drafted by the San Diego Padres in 1985. His first professional team was the Class A Spokane Indians. His hard work and efforts paid off, he moved from the rookie league to the regular Class A team in Charleston South Carolina. Subsequent moves to Reno Nevada and Wichita Kansas saw him playing Class AA ball Wichita Pilots. In 1988, SSG Stevenson was traded to the New York Mets Organization and moved to Jackson Mississippi where he played Class AA ball until being unconditionally released mid season. He was picked up by the Houston Astros organization

but was sent down to Moclova Mexico to play Class AA ball for their farm team.

Uncertain about his future in baseball, SSG Stevenson walked away from the game in 1989. While he did not make a career out of the game of baseball, it has provided a lifetime of memories. SSG Stevenson has played with the likes of Gary Sheffield, Benito Santiago, and David Justice. He once hit a home run off of Kevin Brown of the Los Angeles Dodgers and in fact led the California league in home runs in 1987 when he played for the Reno Nevada Padres.

SSG Stevenson enlisted in the Army for the MOS 31R. SSG Stevenson is the Permanent Party Platoon Sergeant for all 31P and 31S Non-IET students reporting to Fort Gordon for training. He is currently interested in the Warrant Officer Program and credits his wife for where he is today. SSG Stevenson is an “Outlaw” on the move and will be heading the company’s championship drive during the upcoming softball season. “OUTLAWS, Lead the



Augusta State ROTC Drill and Ceremony

Bravo Company, 551st Signal Battalion

On 9 January, DS Rayford and DS McDonald (Bravo Company, 551st Signal Battalion) visited Augusta State University to provide the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) students training on Drill and Ceremony.

SFC White, Augusta State’s Senior Instructor had coordinated to have their student battalion (freshman through senior), train on basic Drill and Ceremony commands. Although many of the ROTC cadets had some degree of training in the past, many stated, “This was the best instruction they had ever received.” The training was such a

success that DS Netherton and DS McDonald conducted additional training on 16 January. In addition, they incorporated weapons into the Drill and Ceremony. Once again, their performance was nothing short of magnificent.

As appreciation for their dedication to duty and training, the college Professor of Military Science (PMS) presented all of the Drill Sergeants with the Army Achievement Medal (AAM).



PFC Jamie M. Bennett — Soldier Spotlight

Charlie Company, 551st Signal Battalion

My name is PFC Jamie M. Bennett. I am a 31S AIT student in Charlie Company, 551st Signal Battalion. Recently, I had the opportunity to have a great impact on another individual’s life.

My wife and I are celebrating our 1st anniversary on

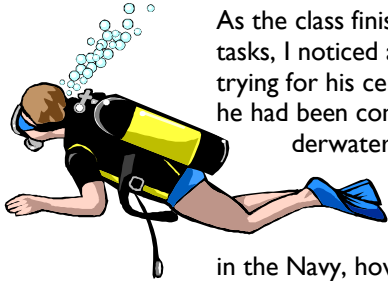
January 23rd, 2003. We took the opportunity of a long weekend to get away for a few days. As a certified Open Water Scuba Diver, my wife and I took a trip to Crystal River, Florida to scuba dive and get her certification. Dive master Gene Parker from

(Continued on page 18)

(Continued from page 17)

American Pro Diver was going to certify her.

The weekend went along as planned, until Sunday January 19th. The entire weekend had been chilly, especially for Florida, but the water temperature is at a consistent 72 degrees so diving was still a go. I had decided to do a "dive along" with my wife's last class, allowing me some extra diving time and the added pleasure of diving with my wife.



As the class finished their last remaining water tasks, I noticed an elderly gentleman, who was also trying for his certification. Earlier in the afternoon he had been complaining of panic attacks while underwater, though on the boat ride out I had been talking with him and he seemed calm and composed. We made small talk about his 22 years

in the Navy, how he retired as an E-8 and how much he missed it but was enjoying his retirement. But, now, in the water, I could tell he was getting stressed. He was continuously fiddling with his valves and gauges. The dive master, who was busy with the other students, had not noticed.

I decided it was my duty to keep a watchful eye on him. As the class swam back to the cove where they were practicing, the gentleman seemed to be going the opposite direction, down river with the current. I had just turned away for a second, to glance at the practicing group, and when I looked back the man was face down in the water and not

moving. I swam over to him as quickly as I could.

Using a combination of my Army training and scuba training I immediately flipped him over and checked him for responsiveness. I immediately realized he was unconscious. I checked him then for a pulse and breathing, which he had to my relief. He was blue in the face and foaming white at the mouth. I began the tired diver tow up river back to the boat while shouting for assistance. The dive master was the first to assist me.

We pulled off his dive gear and dragged him onto the boat. One of the other students was radioing for an ambulance. As we headed back to shore he began having serious convulsions, the other 2 men and I had a hard time keeping him on his side. By now blood and foam were coming from his mouth.

Once on shore, he began to regain consciousness and insisted he was all right. The paramedics arrived and took him into the ambulance. He survived the incident with no outward signs of permanent damage. The paramedics said it was a case of hypothermia.

He was very lucky that I was nearby to pull him out, another 30 seconds or so and he may have drowned. I feel very blessed to have had an opportunity to make such an impact by saving another human beings life.

Mr. Donald Clay — Outstanding Civilian Instructor

Headquarters and Alpha Company, 447th Signal Battalion



Mr. Donald Clay, a member of the Satellite Communications Division, Tactical Satellite (TACSAT) Branch, has been with the Department of the Army for over 42 years of combined civilian and military service.

Born in St. Louis, Missouri, Mr. Clay entered the military service with the objective of national commitment. Militarily, he holds several awards including the Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medal, and many other notable awards achieved during his 20 years of military service. He served in Korea, Thailand, Turkey, Iran, and many stateside assignments as a Fixed Station Chief (32Z) and an Area Communication Chief (31Z).

His civilian career progression began here at Fort

Gordon, Georgia, as a Multi-channel Communications Operator Maintainer Course instructor in the 26Q course in 1984. He later taught in the 31Q and 31M courses. He taught the first Marine contingency class on TACSAT Communications at Fort Gordon. He has extensive electronic training experience in the areas of Tactical and Deployment Communications. He has been instrumental in training Officers, NCO's and Allied Students in these areas.

Mr. Clay sees his job as a way of life and professional commitment to the young soldier, marine, airman, and NCO's that he loves. Mr. Clay holds a Bachelor's Degree in PA, a Bachelor's Degree in TH, and is presently working on a Master's of Divinity Degree.

Green to Gold Expert

Bravo Company, 73rd Ordnance Battalion

Soldiers in B Company, 73d Ordnance Battalion are always asking about the Green-to-Gold ROTC program. Neither one of the company's officers received commissions from ROTC, let alone through Green to Gold. It made sense to them to seek out some expert advice. Company XO, ILT Mann, searched the internet for some local Green-to-Gold contacts and found CPT Migdalia Agosto on the University of South Carolina's ROTC web page. He e-mailed her for more information and as

it turned out she is a Signal Officer and had even been assigned here at Fort Gordon during her tenure in the Army. Not only that but she was going to be on post within a few weeks. ILT Mann asked her if she would be willing to do a presentation to B Company soldiers and she agreed. She brought applications, sample packets, and free giveaways for the soldiers. The soldiers were very appreciative of her time and she offered to come back again in the Spring.



Life as A Soldier in the Dawg Pound

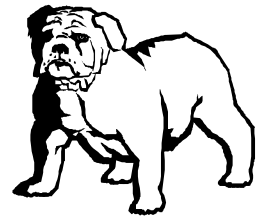
SPC Corey White, Delta Company, 551st Signal Battalion

I was born May 10th, 1980. I am an Army "brat"; my parents are currently stationed at Fort Sill, Ok. My father is a CSM (Robert White). I am originally from South Carolina; however, due to frequent relocations, I currently claim Washington State. This is where I did the majority of my growing up with my two siblings who are 19 and 6.

Early in my life, I found a passion for the Asian and Oriental culture. At an early age I started studying martial arts, specifically Chinese Kempo. I also developed a fascination for ancient military tactics. A large portion of my free time is spent studying "*The Seven Military Classics of Ancient China*" to include such reading *SUN-TZU The Art of War* and *The Book of Five Rings*. My passion for Asian culture allowed me to become proficient in the Japanese language.

Upon graduating from Liberty County High School (Ft Stewart, Georgia) in 1998, I was fortunate enough to obtain an athletic scholarship to the

Citadel Military College, South Carolina. I entered college as a Physics Major and graduated with BS in Business Administration, with a minor in MIS and French. I have 36 credit hours left to finish my BS degree in Physics. My athletic ability opened the door for me; I was featured in both *Sports Illustrated* and *Maxim* magazines.



Upon graduation, I turned down a military commission, opting to work for a civilian company. Unfortunately, the company later filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy and I was left without a job. I made the obvious decision to come back to what I have known my entire life; "The United States Army." I choose to enlist instead of waiting for the next cycle of OCS to start so that I could have a foundation that my future soldiers could rely on. I plan to attend OCS after the completion of the 31P Course. My goal is to finish out my Army contract as a commissioned officer. I am proud to be a part

SSG Lafaye Ross — Soldier, Drill Sergeant, New Mother

Bravo Company, 551st Signal Battalion

On 7 January, SSG Lafaye Ross gave birth to a beautiful son name Josiah. He weighed in at a healthy 9.1 pounds. SSG Ross has been working in Bravo Company's operations section.

Prior to coming over to the Patriot Battalion, she served as a Drill Sergeant in the 369th Signal Battalion. You would think that at nine months pregnant, she would be in the hospital or at home waiting for that magical delivery day. Instead, true to her nature and professionalism, she was at work, coordinating and finalizing Bravo Company soldier's EXODUS travel plans. Even when forced to leave the company

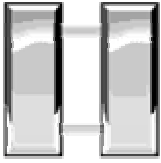
orderly room, she would still call back to check on soldiers travel arrangements. In case she went into labor, the unit had established a contingency plan to cover her absence, but SSG Ross continued to work throughout the entire deployment phase.

Her dedication to duty is without question. SSG Ross is currently on maternity leave, and it is very well deserved. Her cheery smile and personable demeanor is missed by all. SSG Ross is taking some time off to enjoy being a new mother, and will be preparing her family for her next assignment at the Pentagon.



Congratulations First Lieutenants!

Lieutenant Colonel Maria Bezubic, Deputy Brigade Commander, 15th Signal Brigade



The following 15th Regimental Signal Brigade First Lieutenants have been selected for promotion to Captain:

ILT Johnathan Ballard, 369th Signal Battalion
 ILT Gregory Brons, 447th Signal Battalion
 ILT Patience Curtis, 551st Signal Battalion
 ILT Craig Daniel, 447th Signal Battalion
 ILT John Holmes, HHC, 15th Signal Brigade
 ILT Richard Hunter, 551st Signal Battalion
 ILT Tania Iwaskiw, 447th Signal Battalion
 ILT Luwana Madison, 73rd Ordnance Battalion
 ILT Jason Moulton, 369th Signal Battalion
 ILT Ivan Pickett, Fort Meade Detachment
 ILT Dale Pittman, 551st Signal Battalion
 ILT Olga Rivera, 447th Signal Battalion
 ILT Terri Webb, 551st Signal Battalion



ILT John W. Holmes (right), commander of HHC, was promoted to Captain on March 7th, 2003 by Colonel Allen F. Woodhouse (left).

Exodus 2003 — Holdover Company

Delta Company, 551st Signal Battalion

Delta Company, 551st Signal Battalion acted as the 15th Regimental Signal Brigade's Holding Company during EXODUS '03. Almost 100 soldiers from the various IET battalions remained during the EXODUS timeframe. These soldiers participated in numerous company sponsored day trips. The Company Commander, CPT Joseph Somers, credited the overall success to the hard work of his Senior Drill Sergeant, Executive Officer and the numerous Drill Sergeants provided from sister battalions. CPT Somers commented, "The cadre not only planned and coordinated the holding company piece, but they all focused on keeping the soldiers motivated the entire time, this resulted in no disciplinary problems, they did an all-around super job!" While the soldiers did get to see the Augusta Lynx, Atlanta Hawks and the Peach Bowl, it wasn't all fun and games; soldiers also participated in PT and Common Skills Training.

The installation Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) and Non-Appropriated Fund (NAF) contracting offices provided the unit with extensive support. They purchased and provided funds for sports events, movies and other MWR events. The company also received outstanding support from the local chapter of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) and the Signal Corps Regimental Association (SCRA).

Chaplain Michael Zell, 551st Signal Battalion Chaplain also took the time to sponsor a Holiday Pancake Breakfast. In order to get families fully involved, the Chaplain's office held a family day at Chucky Cheese and a Holiday Party in the unit dayroom. Chaplain Zell not only provided food, but spiritual support to soldiers and their families.

Acquanetta Henderson — Profile

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 15th Signal Brigade

Assignment: Secretary to the 15th Regimental Brigade Commander. She has been working on Fort Gordon over 21 years as a Federal employee.

"I find my job challenging, enjoyable and everyday is a learning experience. No day is this organization is ever the same. There are constant changes working in this capacity. My grandmother had a saying "Time brings about a change." I believe that people can adapt and overcome obstacles to achieve what is needed. I take

pride in being one of those persons and will continue to meet the demands of serving our country's service members both military and civilian."

Personal: A Georgia Peach! Ms. Henderson is married with adult children and beautiful grandchildren. When she isn't busy spoiling her grandbabies, she relaxes doing crossword puzzles and reading.

2LT (SPC) Eugene Irby — Working His Way Up

Captain Connie Shanholts, 73rd Ordnance Battalion

SPC Eugene Irby III, was born and raised in Augusta, Georgia and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Sergeant Major (Retired) Eugene Irby, Jr. SPC Irby graduated from Georgia Southern University with a BA in Finance in 1998.

SPC Irby decided to join the Army Reserves in 1999 where he was assigned to the 1015th Maintenance Battalion, Fort Gillem, Georgia. SPC Irby then attended Basic Training and graduated in 2000 from Fort Benning, Georgia. SPC Irby was then assigned to Charlie Company, 73d Ordnance Battalion on 29 June 2001 where he obtained the MOS of a 35E, Radio/Comsec Repairer.

SPC Irby always had the desire to become an Officer and decided to serve in the Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP) at the 878th Engineering Battalion in Augusta, Georgia. While he was in the SMP program he attended the Green to Gold at Augusta State University and was commissioned a 2LT on 14 December 2002.

SPC Irby is now 2LT Irby in Field Artillery and is currently the Assistant Enrollment Officer for Augusta State University. 2LT Irby also completed his Master Degree from Troy State University with a MS in Management. 2LT Irby will attend Field Artillery Officer Basic Course at Fort Sill, OK on 16 June 2003 and will be assigned to Fort Lewis, WA as his first duty assignment.

I was proud of this soldier as a SPC in my company and I am truly proud of his accomplishments within the past year. He will always be a Charlie Cougar from the 73d Ordnance Battalion.



Still Training in 73rd

1LT Sean Mann, Bravo Company, 73rd Ordnance Battalion

Bravo Company 73rd Ordnance Battalion was still training their cadre the day after all of their soldiers left for Christmas Holidays. The company commander felt this would be a great time to do some needed classes. One area he felt needed some attention was fitness training and information on the best shoes for running. Many soldiers in the training environment get shin splints and other related running injuries. "It stands to reason that anything we can learn to prevent unnecessary injuries is worth looking into," said Company Commander CPT Paul Saltysiak.

Bravo Company 73rd arranged for a visiting expert to stop by and give tips and advice on everything from proper stretching to the correct way to determine when running shoes need replacing. Dr. Paul Wright, Ph.D., the track and field coach from Southern Virginia University was more than happy to stop in at Bravo Company on his way back from a coaches' symposium in Florida. Dr. Wright emphasized that a large majority of shin splints are related to wearing the wrong shoes or shoes that are too worn out. He also went into detail on how he trains his cross-country runners.

Dr. Wright was a former Clemson University let-

terman in Track & Field. He has also, competed for his home country of Great Britain on the International Level and competed in the Olympic Trials. As an athlete sponsored by Powerbar, he has had the opportunity to compete through-

out the world. Recently two of his athletes qualified for the Olympic Trials in the marathon. Since arriving at Southern Virginia University, he has guided the Lady Knights Cross-Country team to a USCAA National Championship and the Gentleman Knights to a second place finish.

Bravo 73rd was honored to have Dr Wright stop in and conduct his mini-seminar. It is their hope he will stop in again sometime over the next year for a larger clinic, which will give him an opportunity to talk to the soldiers. "His expertise will surely benefit our program," said Senior Drill Sergeant Lamont Roberts.



Consumer Action — Victim of Unfair Practices?

Lieutenant Colonel Maria Bezubic, Deputy Brigade Commander, 15th Signal Brigade

Are you a victim of Unfair Commercial or Consumer Practices?

Fort Gordon has an Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board (AFDCB) whose purpose is to advise and make recommendations on matters concerning eliminating conditions, which adversely affect the health, safety, morals, welfare, morale and discipline of the Armed Forces. This includes illicit gambling, racial discriminatory practices, liquor violations, prostitution, and other undesirable conditions that may adversely affect members of the military or their families.

If you have a complaint against a commercial business and it hasn't been resolved to your satisfaction, the AFDCB may be able to assist you. The Brigade Deputy Commander is the 15th RSB representative to the Board. Provide details of your complaint to LTC Bezubic, Deputy Brigade Commander (email: bezubicm@gordon.army.mil). LTC Bezubic will forward your complaint to installation agencies for immediate assistance, and then the complaint will be forwarded the AFDCB, which meets quarterly for review and recommendations to prevent or control undesirable conditions.

FBCB2 Training in TCS Division

369th Signal Battalion



On 22 Jan 03, the Tactical Communications Systems Division implemented a new 31UI0 POI mainstreaming Force XXI Battle Command Brigade and Below (FBCB2) into the resident course. Class 013-03 will be the first 31UI0 class to get the training sometime in April 03. FBCB2 is part of the Army Battle Command Systems, pro-

viding situational information and decision support from brigade to the individual platform. The training consists of multimedia tutorials, conference and actual hands-on training with the FBCB2 hardware. Student will learn to install and troubleshoot the software and hardware. Prior to integration into the resident course, FBCB2 was a functional course for 31U soldiers being assigned to Interim Brigade Combat Teams.

TCS Division Builds CBT Lab

369th Signal Battalion



Over the holidays, TCS Division completed construction and furnishing a CBT Lab now being used to train 31UI0 students in the resident course. Over a period of several months last year, several instructors put in a lot of hours rebuilding and up-

grading old computers that were destined for the junk heap. The PC's were loaded with software developed in-house and by Computer Sciences Corporation. Mr Smith, TCS Division Chief, scrounged chairs and workstation tables with soundproofing panels from various units on post. Training conducted in the lab includes SINCGARS, EPLRS, ANCD, PLGR and MSRT.

31UI0 Quality Assurance Self Evaluation / Assessment

369th Signal Battalion

During the period 7 November – 31 December 2002, Training Development Division conducted a Quality Assurance (QA) Self-Evaluation/Assessment for the 31UI0 Signal Support System Specialist Course. The purpose was to evaluate/assess training and training development in accordance with applicable TRADOC and Fort Gordon Regulations

and Pamphlets. During the assessment, analysts focused on quality of training, training materials, instructor qualifications and records, student records and attrition rate. The Assessment concluded with an out-brief on 7 Jan 2003 for the Brigade Commander.

Hails and Farewells from Across the Brigade

551st Signal Battalion

The 551st Signal Battalion would like to say farewell to CPT Joseph F. Lizzi (Bravo Company Commander) and CPT James Busler (Charlie Company Commander), they had changed command on 6 and 13 December respectively. They will sorely be missed. The new commanders are CPT Eric Bowen, who took command of Bravo Company, and CPT Kent Den-

mon, who took command of Charlie Company.

1LT Jasmine Soh arrived from Korea to serve as the Bravo Company XO. She will replace 1LT(P) Richard Hunter, who is deploying for a 365 day tasking.

369th Signal Battalion

Captain David Hernandez will soon be leaving the 15th Signal Brigade. CPT Hernandez will bring his 23-month command to conclusion on Warrior Field on 23 April of this year. CPT Hernandez brought unique leadership to his company. His soldiers and cadre recognized his unique concern for morale and well being. Out of this concern, CPT Hernandez provided his soldiers a Signal History Staff ride, surround sound theater system, big screen TV's, DVD players, Sony Playstation 2,

weight benches, punching bag, pool tables, unit sweat suits, and an internet café. His fellow officers will miss his mentorship and advice. They will also miss his competitive spirit during Officer PT. All will miss his humorous observations and straightforward commentary. Good luck, CPT Hernandez!



On 3 April 2003 the soldiers of Charlie ROCK will bid farewell to CPT Cutie Jackson as she leaves for the Signal Captains Career Course and say hello to CPT Marlon McBride. The ceremony will be held on Warrior Field, off Barnes Ave, at 0800 hours. CPT Jackson has given Charlie Company two years of outstanding leadership in academics, soldier development and cadre

mentorship. Her innovative approach to training and superior organization skills enabled Charlie Company to become one of the best companies in the brigade. While in command she improved the standards in all areas. Her persistence in producing quality soldiers resulted in over 1200 soldiers, in over 50 classes successfully graduating in MOS 31F and 31U. All of us here in Warrior Country and the entire 15th Regimental Signal Brigade wish her the very best in all endeavors as an officer and soldier of the greatest Army in the world.



The Warrior BN also welcomed it's newest Company XO, Lt Kendra Allen and said farewell to Lt Gamble.

currently working on her degree completion at Augusta State University.

Lt Martrell Gamble was an asset to the battalion in every way. Her hard work and dedication to mission success, as evidenced by the Holiday Ball, was second to none. Her impact on this battalion and it's families will be sorely missed. She is

Lt Allen came to us from Camp Carrol Korea. She is an avid sportsman who loves to play softball and bowl. She is a member of the All Armed Forces Softball team and will be touring with them later this year. She does not charge for autographs.

73rd Ordnance Battalion

CPT Connie Shanholts, commander of Charlie Company, will change command with CPT Robert Lentner on April 3rd, 2003. CPT Robert Harding, commander of Headquarters and Alpha Company, will conduct his change of command with CPT Anthony Sherrill on April 12th, 2003. CPT Stephen Kreh

departed the S1 shop to attend the March 11th Engineers Corp Captains Course. 1LT Luwana Madison took over responsibilities as the Battalion S1. Also arriving is CPT David Shumaker, who will be the new Battalion S3.

447th Signal Battalion

CPT Tressa Beauford, commander of Echo Company, will conduct a change of command with CPT Christine Hansen, arriving here from SCCC on April 29th, 2003. 1LT Dereck Robinson arrived to become the new Echo Company Execu-

tive Officer, replacing 1LT(P) Craig Daniel, who left to become the Brigade S4. 1LT (CH) William Tripp will arrive from the Chaplain School in mid-April and assume Chaplain duties for CPT (CH) Patrick Basal.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 15th Signal Brigade

CPT John Chase will be leaving to attend SCCC on March 24th. 1LT(P) Craig Daniel will be taking his place.

The Vision

15th Signal Brigade
Fort Gordon, Georgia

**Voice of the Army ...
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published on the World
Wide Web at
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Email us with all of your suggestions and comments.

Looking for ideas:

We are always looking for suggestions, ideas and recommendations on how to improve the quality of our military environment. There are a lot of great ideas out there and we ask that if you have a good idea or two – to send it in to us so we can evaluate it and see if it can be implemented. Future articles will feature the ideas submitted.

Submit any ideas for articles or an article that you have written to Captain Russ Hernandez, Brigade S1, at hernandr@gordon.army.mil or Captain John W. Holmes at holmesj@gordon.army.mil.

Brigade Mission

Train and Develop Signal and Ordnance Soldiers to be highly motivated, technically knowledgeable, self-disciplined, physically fit, to live by the Army Values and be capable of making an immediate contribution to the Army. Professionally develop the permanent party workforce.

“I Got Your Back” By Unnamed Military Chaplain

I am a small and precious child
My dad been sent to fight.
The only place I'll see his face, is in my dreams at night.
He will be gone too many days, for my young mind to keep track
I may be sad, but I am proud, my daddy's got your back.

I am a caring mother.
My son has gone to war
My mind is filled with worries that I have never known before.
Everyday I try to keep my thoughts from turning black.
I may be scared, but I am proud, my son has got your back.

I am a strong and loving wife.
With a husband soon to go.
There are times I'm terrified in a way most never know.
I bite my lip, and force a smile, as I watch my husband pack.
My heart may break, but I am proud, my husband got your back.

I am a soldier, serving proudly, standing tall.
I fight for freedom, yours and mine by answering this call.
I do my job while knowing, the thanks it sometimes lacks.
Say a prayer that I'll come home, It's me who's got your back.